

Obituary

Dear authors and readers,

With sadness and grief we have to announce that Dr. Matti Saraste, the Managing Editor of FEBS Letters, died on May 21.

Matti Saraste assumed his position at the beginning of 2000 and started a drastic operational reorganisation in order to improve handling efficiency and to boost the standing of the journal, which was his constant matter of concern. He set up a central editorial office at the EMBL in Heidelberg, which receives and screens all manuscripts and selects the most appropriate editor, who then handles each paper autonomously as in the past. He strongly expanded the policy of organizing special issues and well-regarded Minireview articles. Another innovation, in close collaboration with our publisher, has been the ultra-fast publication scheme, which implies that an accepted paper is typically displayed at the FEBS Letters website after just 5 working days.

Matti's next aim was to assemble all the editors for a formal meeting in Lisbon at the occasion of the 27th FEBS Meeting, in order to obtain feedback and to work out the

future goals and procedures. This Editorial Board meeting will take place as Matti planned it, and the editors are determined to work on the future of FEBS Letters according to Matti's vision.

Matti Saraste was a highly-regarded molecular and structural biologist, who held since 1996 the post of Programme Coordinator at the EMBL. His latest project there was to establish a facility for advanced electron microscopy. The EMBL's Director General has announced that the latter facility will be dedicated to his memory.

Matti Saraste was a man of great determination and had a deep sense of responsibility. We will miss an energetic Managing Editor, a great scientist, and a fine man.

Bas van der Hoek
Elsevier Publishing Director
Giorgio Semenza
Former Managing Editor
Willy Stalmans
Chairman, FEBS Publications Committee